

## **Crab Task Force Legislative Meeting- Call to order at 1:10 p.m.**

Roll called and introduction of guests

Discussion of gear license fees and trap limits.

One idea, LDWF would issue a buoy tag and cage tag. Both Radio Frequency Identification tag, one for on buoy and one for in trap. Maybe different styles? They are \$1 per tag.

Jason Froeba and his team will do some trials in the water to see how the RFID tags work.

If you went to two tags it would have to be \$2 per trap, so a second tag could be optional

Tags would be issued annually, may need to do different colors for different years

No trap limit

For traps that don't have buoys it would have to go in the trap

Another suggestion was to write numbers on a buoy

The RFID would help to quantify how many traps there are out in the water

Another possibility would be to do them every two years

Cole Garrett said LDWF operates on an annual basis with licenses, etc., so it getting the tags on an annual basis would be easier.

Implementing RFID is probably 1-2 years away, but in the meantime some kind of chip may work that goes on trap.

**Final Recommendations would be to raise crab trap gear license to \$50 and then also charge \$1 per trap.**

Recreational guys would only be allowed to have 10 or 12 tags as well and would need RFID tags

You could indicate if a trap is a replacement trap so that way you know how many have been replaced

Cole Garrett will mock up language for full task force meeting.

**Committee agrees to expand professionalism program to allow for a dealer to get a commercial crab trap license so that dealers can be sponsors.**

Another potential change that Jason Froeba mentioned that the task force may want to consider are fishermen who held a consecutive license for a certain number of years in Louisiana but has since moved out of state and is back in Louisiana. Some members stressed the importance of sticking with rules of the program.

Darren Bourgeois explained how industry meetings can be used towards credit of fishing trips.

Maiden crabs- new escape ring sizes in 2017 will hopefully help reduce maiden crabs, also Mark Schexnayder said the department can see about getting some degradable panels and providing those to members for no cost.

Cole Garrett mentioned per-diem for crab task force members and how would that be funded, with the license fee being increased some of that could go towards travel and promotion.

Rene LeBreton brought up a discussion that started several years ago about a way to increase funding for marketing, maybe an excise tax or this gear license fee increase. **The task force recommended to direct the funds from the increase in gear license to marketing and also pay for meeting travel.**

Tuesday, January 27 next full task force meeting, 1 p.m. New Orleans.

Motion to adjourn by Eric Blanchard, second by Paul Alfonso. Motion adopted.